

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Final Official Action provided, and for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement by return of the Form PTO-1449.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 3.

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 6 and 11 will have been canceled. Accordingly, claim 3 is currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of claim 3 in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

The Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over BURGESS et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0114853) in view of ALTARAC et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,616,668).

Claims 6 and 11 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is now moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and an early indication of the allowance of claim 3.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the proposed amendment is proper for entry since it merely cancels rejected claims 6 and 11, leaving only claim 3 pending, which the Examiner indicated is allowable. It is also submitted that none of the references of record, considered alone or

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in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as recited in claim 3.

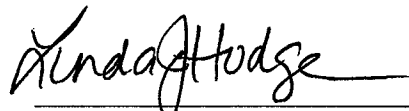
Accordingly, consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Final Official Action, and allowance of the present amendment and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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March 14, 2008  
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